“Fort Humphrey”

Taken from handwritten notes of life-long Holland resident Bertha Selleck (1885-1965)

During the War of 1812, people felt alarm in regard to British and Indian invasions. In the summer of 1813, the inhabitants combined and built a stockade on the farm of Arthur Humphrey, one of Holland’s first settlers and its first supervisor. The land is located on the east side of Route 16, north of the hamlet.

From 600 to 700 logs were cut about 15 feet long, hewed so as to fit closely together and set upright side by side, about three feet in the ground. Loop holes were cut for muskets and rifles and the defenders of the stockade might reasonably expect to repel a moderate-sized force of either Indians or white men, unless it was provided with artillery.

This crude defense was usually called “Fort Humphrey” and the Humphrey farm was known thence forth as the “Fort Farm.”